

Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Number 1

Summer 1985

You can name the newsletter

NEWSLETTER PREMIERES . . .

WELCOME to the first of many newsletters published solely for you, the employees of the Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center. We hope this publication will keep you well-informed of the many activities and events going on both inside and outside the hospital.

You may have noticed that our newsletter is entitled just that - "NEWSLETTER". Well, that hopefully will change. You see we want you, the employees, to come up with a permanent name. The best title will then be used starting with our next issue in the fall.

To enter your suggestion, you may drop off your idea at the personnel office on the first floor of the hospital. And, if you are artistic,

you may design the heading for the newsletter, colors, style, etc. A special committee will select the best name. The winner will find out when our next issue comes out. Please keep in mind that we may choose the name you submit and not the artwork.

After seeing all the wonderful ideas for posters during National Hospital Week back in May, we definitely have some talent out there. All entries must be submitted by August 16th to the personnel office. Please attach your name and department so we know who to give credit to. Also, if you have a few ideas, you may submit more than one!

Moving right along, we want to tell you about some of our regular features in our newsletter. Each issue will

feature marriages, births, new employees, etc. Other articles will be "Personnel Forum", a question and answer column with our Director of Personnel Tom Yurish. Joe Homanko of Security will have important information to pass along. Also, there will be some health tips, recipes and lots more!

Please take special notice to "Feedback" on page four. We want to know your feelings on this publication!

We hope that you will enjoy reading the newsletter. It will be published quarterly, with our next issue out in October! But right now, keep on reading.

2 Med Center Facilities Mark Anniversaries

The month of July marks the anniversary of two major additions to the Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center. July 9 marks the one-year anniversary of the Saint Joseph-Weatherly Satellite while July 13 marks four years of service for the Ambulatory Care Center.

"When we began the Ambulatory Care Center here at the Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center, no one anticipated the tremendous response and community acceptance that it has received", said Dr. Phillip Benyo, Director of Ambulatory Care Services for the Medical Center.

From its inception on July 13, 1981 through December 31, 1981 the Ambulatory Care Center inside the hospital served 7,350 patients. In 1982 that number rose to 24,466, in

1983 to 26,711 and in 1984 to 28,846. So far this year through the middle of June, the center has seen close to 13,000 patients.

According to Dr. Benyo, "At the time of its inception, ambulatory care was designed to evaluate and treat almost every medical and surgical condition. At this point in time, I can honestly say that it has met its goal."

"We began our Ambulatory Care Center with one full-time physician and one facility. That has grown to 9 full- and part-time physicians and 24 hour service at the Medical Center, plus three very utilized satellites in Weatherly, Shenandoah and Conyngham", said Steve Gimmer, Assistant Administrator for the hospital.

At present Ambulatory Care

employs ten ward clerks, 6 full-time registered nurses, 6 part-time registered nurses and 4 full-time licensed practical nurses. The center is staffed by three full-time physicians: Dr. Benyo, Dr. John Amentler, M.D. and Dr. George Kulick, M.D. The center went to 24 hour service on November 19, 1982.

According to Gimmer, "Public acceptance was one of the major reasons for the creation of the Weatherly satellite. We decided there was a need for such a facility in the borough of Weatherly after the Concerned Citizens of the Weatherly Area expressed a desire for such a center."

The Weatherly center is located in the new Weatherly Plaza. It too is a

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Med Center *continued*

full service primary care center offering a variety of services: treatment of sudden illness or injury, laboratory services, immunizations, physical exams, free blood pressure screening, electrocardiograms and more. It is staffed by two very capable physicians Michael Benavage, M.D. and Chitra Chandran, M.D.

The Weatherly center is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 am - 5 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 9 am - 9 pm, and Saturday 9 am - 1 pm. Laboratory hours at the satellite are from 9 am - 10:30 am Monday through Saturday. As with all the other ambulatory centers, no appointment is necessary, but appointments can be scheduled if desired.

The Weatherly center employs seven persons, including the two physicians. Donna Thomas, R.N. is satellite supervisor. As of June 18, 1985 the center has seen close to 5,000 patients.

According to Dr. Benyo, "our ambulatory care centers are for much more than emergencies. For many residents we serve as their family physician, a trend sure to grow in the future."

The ambulatory care center inside the hospital has also had a role in local disaster drills in preparation of a regional disaster plan.

Hospital administrator Sister M. Edwinalda said that "the ambulatory care concept is sure to grow even more in the future. Ambulatory care continues our hospital's philosophy which is to provide all patients with the most modern medicine at the lowest possible cost."

In conclusion, Dr. Benyo attributed the success of ambulatory care over the past four years to the convenience, flexible hours and walk-in services offered by a well-trained, qualified staff.

"Ambulatory care meets the needs of today's society," said Dr. Benyo. "I feel that the Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center took a major health care step by offering such services in Hazleton, Shenandoah, Weatherly and Conyngham. It is a step that other medical facilities are sure to follow," Dr. Benyo added.

Plans

Work is continuing on the restoration of the former Hazle Township School building. It is hoped that the building will be occupied within the next 12 months. Tentative plans in-

clude leasing part of the building to be used as a radiation therapy unit. This would save local patients who require radiation therapy the time and expense of traveling out of the area for treatment.

Some additional parking is expected to be made available soon by the conversion of a local property to a parking lot.

Both the radiation therapy unit and the parking lot are awaiting approval of the zoning board at the time this is being written.

Health Tips

Avoiding Food Poisoning

by Diane Aulisio R.D.M.S. and Joann Kalavsky A.D.A.-M.S.

The summer months are often associated with family picnics and backyard barbecues. However, summer temperatures increase the possibility of food poisoning due to improperly cooked and stored foods. Most people are not nearly as careful as they should be with food preparation and storage. To protect your family and friends this summer, save the following suggestions and adhere to them carefully.

Food poisoning occurs from food contaminated with certain bacteria, especially salmonella and staphylococcus. Symptoms are intestinal cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The foods most likely to become contaminated are meat, fish, eggs, milk, mayonnaise, gravy and custards. Most people affected with food poisoning will recover uneventfully in one or two days, but the disease can be more severe in infants and the elderly.

To prevent food poisoning:

Practice good hygiene. Wash hands before and after preparing and serving food. Wash your hands after using the bathroom or blowing your nose, after touching raw meat, and handling pets. Have someone else prepare food when you have a skin infection or an illness.

Watch out for contamination. Discard any food that looks or smells bad. Don't taste food that looks bad. Use separate cutting boards and utensils to prepare raw meat and don't use them for other food until after washing them well with hot water and soap. Don't eat cracked or raw eggs and avoid raw or unpasteurized milk.

Cook food properly. Use a meat thermometer and be sure that the internal temperature reaches 165 degrees F. Serve food as soon as

possible after cooking, especially foods that spoil quickly, such as meat and dairy products. Refrigerate leftovers quickly and don't let them cool on the counter. Keep hot food hot (above 140 degrees F.) and cold food cold (below 40 degrees F.).

Store food properly. Refrigerate food promptly after use. When refrigerating large amounts of hot food, put it in the refrigerator so that all of the food can cool quickly. Do not defrost poultry by allowing it to sit on or near the stove or in the sunlight.

By following these simple food safety tips, your summer can be both enjoyable and healthy for you and your family.

Center Chatter

Wedding Bells . . .

Congratulations and Best Wishes from the entire hospital staff to . . .

. . . Monica Bunk (003) on her Marriage to James Stauffer.

. . . Michele Kristoff (010) on her marriage to James McKeon.

. . . Mary Ella Chernansky (004) on her marriage to Raymond Mylet.

. . . Debra Ogozalek (030) on her marriage to Larry Lisella.

Births . . .

. . . A son to Cheryl and Ronald Hupc-
zey. Cheryl is an LPN in Dept. 012 at
the medical center.

. . . A daughter to Mary and Larry
Tedesco. Mary is a R.N. in Dept. 004
at the medical center.

Transfers/Promotions . . .

. . . Mary Strohl, Dept. 009, Nurse
Aide, to Dept. 010, G.N. Mary is a re-
cent graduate of Luzerne County
Community College's R.N. program.

. . . Donna Tucker, 066, Business
Clerk, to Dept. 050, Administrative
Assistant.

Licensure/Certification:

Michele McKeon passed her state
boards to become a registered nurse.
Congratulations Michele!

PERSONNEL FORUM

with Tom Yurish

Questions of general interest regarding personnel matters will be addressed in this column each issue. Please present questions in writing to the Personnel Office.

This edition of "The Personnel Forum", being the first, will be dedicated to providing a general description of the Personnel Department and its functions to our employees. The people in personnel are myself, Tom Yurish - Director of Personnel; Greg Gower - Assistant Director of Personnel; and Evelyn Kulick - Employee Health Nurse.

Personnel office hours are 8 am -4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Miss Kulick handles all employee health related matters such as physical exams for new and current employees, as well as on-the-job injuries or illnesses. She can answer your questions or help with problems in those areas.

All other personnel matters are handled by Greg Gower and myself. Some items that we can assist with include:

- ... job openings, hiring procedures, applications, transfers, orientation
- ... direct deposit of pay checks
- ... Blue Cross/Blue Shield
- ... pension plan
- ... life insurance
- ... name pins, time cards
- ... grievances, disciplinary matters
- ... change of name, address, marital status
- ... resignation, terminal benefits
- ... leaves of absence
- ... policy questions
- ... workers' compensation
- ... hospital rules

This list is not all-inclusive. If you are in doubt about where to go with a particular question or problem, please feel free to ask us.

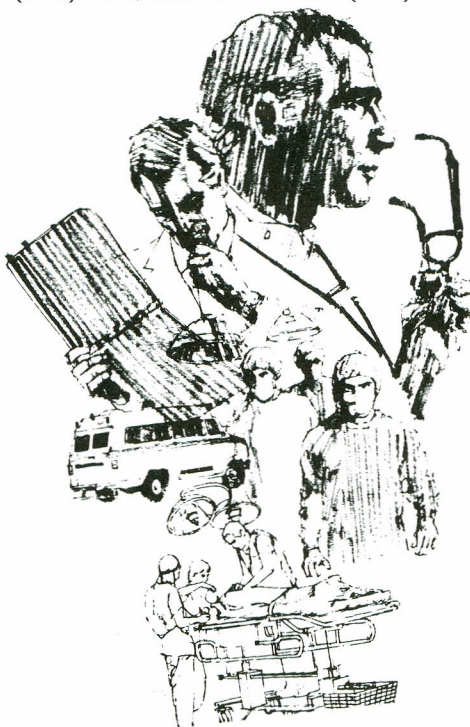
Welcome!

Everyone at the Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center would like to extend a warm welcome to our new employees...

Elizabeth Hornack (004) R.N., Greg Gower (071) Assistant Director of Personnel, Elizabeth Jurewicz (030) Ultrasound Tech., Anna Shearon (047) Laundry Helper, Ronald Ashford (039) Physical Therapy

Aide, Tom Yurish (071) Director of Personnel, Athena Williams (002) R.N., Pat Colangelo (026) Stress Lab Supervisor, Walter Figas (045) Guard Trainee, Jessie Harmanski (046) Housekeeper, Anna Dolan (001) Nurse Supervisor, Mark Kolbush (050) Accountant, Dorothy Palmer (002) R.N.

Anne Bertuola (030) X-Ray Tech., Cheryl Shema (041) Dietary Aide, Joann Kalavsky (041) Clinical Dietician, Chris Kocon (065) Programmer Trainee, Karen Ninassi (013) O.R. Tech., Gina Carrell (041) Dietary Aide, Denise Lewis (041) Dietary Aide, Charlene Zilker (018) M.L.T., Carmella Dematt (046) Housekeeper, Charlotte Carney (009) Nurse Aide, Lisa Oswald (059) Medical Records Clerk, Jean Smolen (041) Dietary Aide, Joseph Caputo (033) Pharmacy Director, Thomas Kulick (045) Guard Trainee, Judith Skibicki (013) G.N., William Jacavage (004) R.N., Lisa Forgotch (003) G.N., Eileen Debalko (003) G.N., Marcy Buzanowicz (004) G.N., Timothy Senko (010) R.N., Ruth Edel (002) R.N., Donna Schrum (003) G.N., Mary Kufro (010) G.N., Lisa Bodnar (002) G.N., Mary Jo George (011) G.N., Kathleen Hinkle (003) G.N.



New Volunteer Program

The Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center has initiated a new volunteer program for area students, ages 14 through 18. Known as the "Junior Volunteer Program", it will allow students to learn about the functions and services of their com-

munity hospital.

The program will be especially beneficial to any student who would like to pursue a career in a medical field. The project has been designed to provide the participants with valuable health care experience and new skills.

The "Junior Volunteer Program" is being organized by the hospital nursing department with Mary Jo Marinko R.N., nurse supervisor, as coordinator for the program.

The new program was officially kicked off in June.

Summer Relief Temporaries:

Joseph Evanko-Medical Records, Ann Swankowski-Patient Registration, John Denion-Building and Grounds, Amy Wright-Outpatient Dept., Donna Swiech-Nurse Aide (002), Anthony Carrato-Nurse Aide (Operating Room), Jane Havrilla-Nurse Aide (004), Sheryl Haber-Radiology, Thomas Figas-Building and Grounds, Susan Salvaterra-Laboratory, Mary Ann Chmiel-Pharmacy, Charyl Caldonetti-Patient Registration, Joseph Macus-Pharmacy, William Schultz-Medical Records, Nicholas Mischissin-Building and Grounds, David Carrell-Building and Grounds, Mark Blasko-Building and Grounds, Gary Mason-Building and Grounds, Melinda Craigle-Weatherly Satellite, Amy Herbener-Physical Therapy, Tammy Rudawski-Personnel, Joseph Rudawski-Accounts Receivable, Melissa Kernevich-Accounts Receivable.



Hospital Happenings . . .

July 9th - Saint Joseph-Weatherly Satellite 1 year anniversary

July 13th - Ambulatory Care Center within HSJMC, 4 year anniversary

July 20th - Big Brother/Big Sister Program

July 23rd & 25th - The Hazleton Library Summer Reading Club will tour the hospital

August 17th - Big Brother/Big Sister Program

September 21st - Big Brother/Big Sister Program

National Recognition

Congratulations to 14-year-old Michael Cukauskas for placing 33rd in Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Michael is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cukauskas of Freeland. Joseph is a registered nurse on the second floor at the Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center.

Social Services

by Robert G. DeFant
Social Service Director

Today, with the dawn of DRG's, we see an increased communication between Doctor and patient, or their family, with the Social Service department, in the health care field. Discharge planning begins the moment a "patient is admitted"; not the day before "going home", or the actual day of discharge, when there are problems, of where "they will go". Prospective payment with the impact of DRG-related changes has had a number of unsavory effects on hospitals, including employees, as we must do our jobs with increased

productivity and cost containment, in mind, and still give that quality care to "our guests", from day #1.

As a team, all of us can work together, to cut costs, boost work load and improve patient care. Be convinced, that there are many ancillary services available today, to the patient, to help them get "home". If you have a member of your family, friend, or neighbor, in the hospital, as an inpatient; and that admission is in the Diagnosis-Related Groups of illnesses—communicate with your Doctor and look up the Social Service Department, for help, in advance.

Building teamwork through patient - employee - Doctor - and Discharge Planner will reduce the overall concern of DRGs, and keep the image and reputation of the hospital. The DRGs are here to stay, at least, for now, so, if all of us make a concerted effort to communicate with and show concern for the "patient", the impact of this prospective pay change can be more positive than anyone could have imagined.

Discharge plans via the Doctor to Social Service can help the patient—early, not late.

SECURITY CORNER

by Joseph Homanko.

Photo ID System

Effective July 1, 1985, The Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center implemented a new Photo Identification System. The new system is mandatory for all hospital employees.

The program is a major step towards increased security at the medical center. The new ID system will assure that only authorized personnel are in designated areas. This in turn will help to secure personal property of both patients and employees.

The Personnel Department will issue to each active employee a Photo ID card for the purpose of facilitating identification while on the hospital premises. All employees are instructed by personnel at the time of issuance that they are required to wear the Photo ID Card on the front of the outer garment at all times while on duty on the hospital premises. In case of loss of the card,

or change of name, position or department, it will be up to the employee to notify personnel of their need for a new Photo ID Card.

This new Photo ID is the only type authorized to be worn. Department heads and supervisors will be jointly responsible for monitoring the various requirements and instructions included in this policy for the ID's. They will also be responsible for all corrective measures required to see that the policy is followed in their respective departments.

The specifications for the nomenclature for the new ID's: the first line will include the full last name, full first name and first initial of middle name plus abbreviations for various vocational fields; the second line will list the department, third line will contain employee number and fourth line will have employee signature.

Questions regarding this new identification system can be addressed to either Security or the Personnel Office.



Feedback

We would like to know your feelings on this publication. Do you enjoy the articles? Do you feel that we should cover more? . . . Less? Do you have any ideas for articles or special features? If so, drop us a line!

All ideas can be dropped off at the Personnel Office at the Medical Center.

Also, if there is a specific question that you would like answered, or a certain topic covered by one of our columnists, let us know! This is your publication.

Next issue coming out in October! Talk to you then.

